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CHURCH NAME DAY

We often hear that Pentecost is the Church's Birthday. In Orthodox tradition – it's Names Day. Nikiforor Volgin had an interesting chapter in his book The Earth's Names Day the Trinity, which we commemorate on Pentecost Sunday, and Spirit Day, which is commemorated on Monday.

The Earth's Names Day

The birch trees under our window murmured of the coming of the Holy Trinity (Pentecost). Sitting under their canopy, merging with the waves of their glittering leaves, I close my eyes tightly and imagine a path of shimmering light, just like on a river at sunrise, and along this path, in the form of three angels in white raiment, walks the Holy Trinity. On the eve of the holiday, mother said: "Tomorrow is the earth's names day!"

I ask: "How is that?"

She answers: "Because tomorrow, my boy is Trinity Day. Tomorrow the Holy Spirit walks on the earth and decorates the earth with the most beautiful field flowers and thick green grass. That is why on Trinity Day the earth always looks bedecked and merry, like a names day celebrant!"

The earth's names day! These extraordinary words sounded so wonderful, that my whole heart lit up.

The arrival of the Holy Trinity at our village I felt early in the morning, in the form of the rising sun's rays, which filled our little room with a delicate radiance.

Mother was lighting the lampada in front of the icons and was murmuring: "O Holy Trinity, save us..."

Over the earth, which was celebrating its names day, the sun spilled its rays in thick and fragrant waves.

The church crowned the earth's names day with wondrous hymns and

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MY MOTHER

I had the meanest Mother in the world. While other kids had candy for breakfast, I had to eat cereal, eggs, and toast. While other kids had cakes and candy for lunch, I had a sandwich. As you can guess, my dinner was different from other kids' dinners, too.

My mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were on a chain gang or something. She had to know who our friends were and what they were doing.

I am ashamed to admit it, but she actually had the nerve to break the child labor law. She made us work. We had to wash dishes, make the beds, and learn how to cook. That woman must have stayed awake nights thinking up things for us kids to do. And she insisted that we tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

By the time we were teenagers, she was much wiser and our life became more unbearable. None of this tooting the car horn for us to come running; she embarrassed us to no end by insisting that friends come to the door to get us.

I forgot to mention that most of our friends were allowed to date at the mature age of twelve or thirteen, but our old-fashioned Mother refused to let us date until we were much older. She really raised a bunch of squares. None of us was ever arrested for shoplifting or busted for dope. And who do we have to thank for this? You're right, our mean mother.

I am trying to raise my children to stand a little straighter and taller and I am secretly tickled to pieces when my children call me mean. I thank God for giving me the meanest

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PENTECOST

This Holy Day is celebrated fifty days after Pascha/Easter. It is a Scriptural Holy Day for we read it in Acts 2:1-11. On this day our homes and churches are decorated with branches from the trees and green grass is strewn on the floor. The green represents something alive – life eternal -- reminding us that on this day our heavenly Father sent down into the world the life-giving Spirit, which was first received by the Apostles, and passed on by them to us in the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation. Through these Sacraments we are re-born into a new everlasting life with Jesus.

The noise that we make by walking on the grass or hay strewn on the floor of the church represents the noise heard at the descent of the Holy Spirit, which comes as "a sound as of a rushing mighty wind." (Acts 2:2)

The sweet smell of the new mown grass is the sweetness of the grace of God given to us by the Holy Spirit.

To impress upon us the importance of this day, and to show us that all things have been accomplished and a new era of life begins for us, the time of vespers is changed. It is served immediately following the Divine Liturgy instead of later in the afternoon.

It begins with the singing of the prayer: "O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who are in all places and fillest all things, the Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, Come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity; and save O Gracious One our souls." While this is being sung, we kneel for the first time since Easter.

We kneel to say our prayers to remind ourselves that, as the Vesper

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CHRONOLOGY

MAY 2004

DIED: Fr. Svetislav Balevich, retired, in Moose Jaw, Canada.

A SEMINARY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER is sought by St. Tikhon's Seminary, PO Box 130, S. Canaan, PA 18459. Phone 570-937-4411 or Fax 570-937-3100. Salary and benefits are negotiable. An Orthodox experienced in resource development, fund-raising with a bachelor's degree is preferred.

HOLISTIC HEALING IN BYZANTIUM, a conference for health professionals, will be held at Hellenic College in Brookline, MA. It is being sponsored by the Institute of Medicine, Psychology and Religion on May 7 and 8. For info: PO Box 958, Cambridge, MA 02238. Phone 617-868-6557 or Fax 617-868-6550.

IN BEJING, CHINA on the grounds of the Russian Embassy is the site of the construction of a wooden church to be built as a replica of an Orthodox Church built here in the 17th century. It is to be completed by this summer. It is being financed by private funds.

CYPRUS is developing special tours for the many Russian tourists who are visiting the island.

ICONS FROM THE 16th TO THE 18th CENTURY from all over Turkey were collected and stored at Hagia Sophia when it was converted to a museum in 1935. Pictures in a daily newspaper on September 23 of the storage room showed icons covered in dust piled on top of each other. Some icons have worms, others are peeling from the humidity. The Greek cultural ministry offered assistance to Turkey to restore and preserve the precious icons.

A TRIP TO PUERTO RICO is being sponsored by Holy Trinity Parish in Danbury, CT. The seven-day trip with Fr. Deacon Gregory Justiniano as guide costs $1400. For info 203/790-7177 or e-mail justih@danbury.k12.ct.us.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF) is a pan-Orthodox, official campus ministry effort of SCOBA. The 3rd Sunday in September each year (Sept. 19 this year) has been designed as College Student Sunday. Contact Orthodox Christian Fellowship, PO Box 249, Boston, MA 02130 at 1-800-919-1623 or www.ocf.net for info.

BASED ON THE SPEECH OF A RUSYN VILLAGE IN EASTERN SLOVAKIA, the third edition of the phrasebook Let's Speak Rusyn is available for $10.95 plus $4. Order from Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center, 7380 SW 86 Lane, Ocala, FL 34476-7006.

THE FIRST ORTHODOX CHURCH to be built in Antarctica was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It stands at the Russian polar station Bellingauzen on a spot where it can be seen from 30 kilometers away. It is the first thing passengers coming from Tierra del Fuego can see. The church, seating 30, was built of cedar and larch wood because these are the most cold and wind resistant woods. It was built in Altai in South Siberia, dismantled and transported to its Bellinsgauzen site, where it was reassembled. The iconography was done by the famous Palekh painters. The bells were donated by the offspring of the well-known Decembrist Muravyov-Apostol. Many Russian and foreign polar explorers and pilgrims were flown by special flight for the consecration.

THE ST. SOPHIA CAMP IN SAN BERNARDINO, CA, which was destroyed by a mudslide on Christmas Day, was established by St. Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles in 1961. Contributions were solicited by the Greek Archdiocese and were distributed to the members of the victims' families for funerals and to transport them to Guatemala for burial. There are no immediate plans to renovate the camp. The cathedral will continue its camping program at rented facilities.

ILAASI, Friends of St. Herman Seminary, 414 Mission Rd., Kodiak, Alaska 99615 has earmarked its 2004 Fundraising Drive to update its computer lab and to purchase library software for cataloging and circulation. Plans are for St. Herman's Seminary website to be used by researchers worldwide as many of the library holdings are archivals and valuable.

INFORMATION ON MANY SUBJECTS is available free or at nominal cost from the Federal Citizen Information Center. Free catalog from 1-888-8PUEBLO or www.pueblo.gsa.gov

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART has opened an exhibit on "Byzantium, Faith and Power, 1261-1557." The exhibit was opened with a prayer by Archbishop S. Damianos, abbot of St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, Egypt, which has furnished 40 icons, manuscripts and liturgical treasures. The monastery was founded in the 6th century on the site where Moses witnessed the Burning Bush. Other items have been lent by a Munich museum, the Louvre and others. Among Slavic items is a 13th century panel called the "Holy Face of Laon," which is commonly known as the "Image Made Without Human Hands." The exhibit will close on July 4.

THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER found in a recent survey that 59% of people living in the U.S. said that religion is very important to them. Other percentages are 30% in Canada, 27% in Italy, 21% in Germany, 14% in Russia and 12% in Japan.

(Continued from front page)
CHURCH NAME DAY

long mysterious prayers, during which we stood on our knees, and the floor was covered with flowers and fresh grass. I picked up blades of grass from the floor, rubbed them between my palms and breathing in their fragrant smell, I sensed with all my heart how wonderful it is to be alive on the earth's names day!

(Continued from front page)
MY MOTHER

Mother in the world. Our country doesn't need a good five-cent cigar. It needs more mean Mothers like mine.

Blessings on that wonderful woman.

–Author Unknown

from front page)
PENTECOST

Service signifies a new day, so also we begin a new life here on earth and so we humbly ask God to send down upon us His Holy Spirit and grace to guide and protect us.

We show our humble and contrite heart by kneeling during the three lengthy prayers. In one we petition our heavenly Father to remember all those who have departed this life and pray that He accepts them into His heavenly paradise, for we believe that they along with us comprise His Church.

DOES GOD HATE?

In our present age there is a tremendous focus on the statement, "God is love." There are only two passages that make this statement in the whole of Sacred Scripture (1 John 4: 8,16). But the question must also be asked, that if God is love, can God hate?"

Proverbs 6:16-19 says: "There are six things which the Lord ***hates,*** seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers."

"Vengeance is mine," God says, (Deut. 32: 35) which is again repeated in Romans 12:19. He didn't say that it belongs to us. We are His children and not the Lord; we are His creation, not the Creator. Too often, we appoint ourselves as God's policemen filled with the passion of judgmentalism toward others. Most of the time, we choose to overlook our own sins and expose the faults of others.

The presence of an all-knowing and forgiving God should be a comfort to us. Are we not called to be examples of God's kindness? Are we not called to forgive and heal? Are we not called to be His loving presence in the world?

The problems of society will always be with us. Most are a distraction from the real work that must be accomplished: the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18).

So, does God hate? Yes, but that is ***His*** realm. Should we hate? Yes! "hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good" (Romans 12:9), but never the sinner who is created in God's image, and that includes yourself. "God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:12).

LONELINESS

There is no person living who does not know loneliness. Loneliness is not limited to any place, status, or time of life. Often one is more lonely in the midst of a crowded city rather than in the countryside. It afflicts the rich and the poor, the old and the young, the single and the married, the learned and the illiterate. It is often made more acute by the desperate and frantic efforts that are made to escape it. Excessive use of alcohol or drugs, or food or spending only add a new dimension to the misery.

We do not understand this problem until we recognize that it is a double loneliness. It is both horizontal and vertical – a need for closer relationship with other human beings, and also a need for closer relationship with God. Even those who have all the good human ties that this world can provide – in marriage, friendship, work, family, social life – still face acute loneliness.

Some say that religion is what man does with his solitariness. The depth of a man's inner life is tested and revealed by the thoughts that haunt him when he is completely alone. Blessed is that person who can say with Jesus "I am not alone, because the father is with me." (John 16:32). The person is blessed because he has begun to discover the one adequate solution to his problem – prayer. He has learned that prayer is being alone in God's Presence. He agrees with St. Augustine: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

GIFT OF BAPTISM

The gift which we have received from Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism is not destroyed but is only buried as a treasure in the ground. Both common sense and gratitude demand that we should take care to unearth this treasure and bring it to light.

This can be done in two ways. The gift of Baptism is revealed first of all by a painstaking fulfillment of the commandments; the more we carry these out, the more clearly the gift shines upon us in its true splendor and brilliance. Secondly, it comes to light and is revealed through the continual invocation of the Lord Jesus, or by unceasing remembrance of God, which is one and the same thing. The first method is powerful but the second is more so, so much so that even fidelity to the commandments receives its full strength from prayer.

For this reason, if we truly desire to bring to flower the seed of grace that is hidden within us, we should hasten to acquire the habit of the exercise of the heart, and always practice this prayer within it, without any image or form, until it warms our mind and inflames our soul with an inexpressible love towards God and man.

St. Gregory of Sinai 13th century

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Much attention has been given recently to the term **"Weapons of Mass Destruction."** It has been said that chemical and biological weaponry in the hands of despotic and tyrannical political leaders and governments are a recipe for environmental and human destruction.

There is a weapon that predates "WMD" and is more lethal than any other weapon known to man. It has been known to start wars, foster hatred, ruin friendships, spark national revolutions, soil reputations, wreck marriages and homes, bring schism in churches and drive more men out of the ministry. One cannot escape its proliferation; it can be found in every neighborhood, place of worship and home. It is literally right under your nose: the tongue.

The Lord's brother James, head of the Church in Jerusalem said: "If we put bits into the mouths of horses that they may obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Look at the ships also; though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So the tongue is a little member and boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is an unrighteous world among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the cycle of nature, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by humankind, but no human being can tame the tongue – a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brethren, this ought not to be so *(James 3:3-10)."*

Jesus instructs us: "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned *(Matthew 12:36-37)."*

What would be the impact on our world if Christians would be known for their ability to shun gossip? What if the only "secret" we shared was the Good News and the only people that we "talk about" was Jesus, the Blessed Mother and the saints? We would be unpopular with those who just want to cut others down and spread idle-talk, but those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness." *(Matthew 5:6)* would be drawn to Christ through us.

Saint Paul gave us sound advice when he said, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" *(Ephesians 4:29). The simple choice is always before you:* your tongue can become a weapon of mass destruction or a vehicle of abundant blessing.

Prayer: O Lord, as Your child, I am Your ambassador in this world. When I feel the urge to make idle-talk, inspire me with the words of the Psalmist David: "Set a guard over my mouth, keep watch over the door of my lips." May all that I say today be for Your honor and glory. Preserve all of us by the power of Your grace. Amen.

Raymond J. Mastroberte
Cantor

IT STAGGERS THE MIND

It is said that Blessed Augustine (354-430), a leader in the early Western Church, was walking on the ocean shore one day pondering the mystery of the Trinity. He saw a little boy who was playing with a seashell. The youngster scooped a hole in the sand, then went down to the waves and filled his shell with water and poured it into the hole he had made.

Blessed Augustine asked: "What are you doing?"

The boy replied: "I am going to pour the sea into the hole."

That led Blessed Augustine, thinking: "That is what I have been trying to do. Standing at the ocean of infinity, I have attempted to grasp it with my finite mind."

The concept of the Holy Trinity does not fit the framework of common logic, nor can it be fully analyzed by our intellect. But this is no reason to say it is an invention of theologians. To declare that the one and only God has made Himself known as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is simply an attempt to define what the Scriptures teach. "I and my Father are one." John 10:30. "After that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." Acts 1:8.

"And when Jesus was baptized, He went straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him: and a Voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt 3:16-17)

To commit our lives to this triune God is to begin to see with the eye of faith His greatness as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Doesn't it make sense that the One we worship and to Whom we entrust our lives should be vastly greater than our limited understanding.

PRESS FUND

SPASEBO/THANK YOU: Anne Dorozynski, Irene Allen, Michael Scuba, Mike and Millie Vovos, C. Morgan, Steve Dorko, Ruth Morris, Helen Ashuck, Mrs. L. H. Stehnach, Anna Tanchak, Mary Kraynak, Olga Grabania, Catherine Shaffchick, Ethel Watlock, Ed and Irene Rhenish, DC Edward and Alice Reta, Pauline Petronek, Juliana Kuzmack, DC Michael Lapotsky, Dorothy Levitske, Anonymous (2), Patricia DiGiacobbe, Fr. Paul Waters.

Patricia Pavelchak in honor of her sister and brother-in-law, SDC Paul and Joan Maty, on their 50th wedding anniversary on May 15.

Steve and Lenora Evancho for health of Matushka Nina, Claudia Sulin and Anna Plefka.

Frances Migdal in memory of Uncle Benjamen and her parents Fr. and Matushka Migdal

George and Dolly Manzuk in memory of parents Cantor George Manzuk, Jr., and Frank and Anna Matich

Helen Allen in memory of her mother Millie Krohta Allen

In memory of Michael Petty

Theodore Hamilla in memory of Irene Tus

Steve and Lenora Evancho in memory of parents

John and Anna Sulin, George and Helen Evancho and George Uhrin

WATER TO ETERNAL LIFE

In the Gospel reading from John 4:5-42, which gives a Sunday its name the Samaritan Woman, we find this marvelous account of the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan, Photinia.

Our Lord gave this lady the chance to find her dignity. She had been a sad figure indeed. She had had and lost five husbands and now she was living with a man with whom she was not married. When Jesus told her: "Go, call your husband and come here," He was giving her a chance to speak honestly about her sad state. Photinia responded virtuously. She said: "I have no husband."

By speaking her truth, the Samaritan opened the door to her heart, and thus gave the Lord an opening to give her a revelation which then totally transformed her life. He said that He was the One everyone was awaiting, the Messiah sent by God to save the world. Profoundly stirred by this message, Photinia went to call her neighbours to listen to this prophet Who had shown her such respect and confidence.

Many people turned to God as a result of this exchange. Are **we** ready to turn our hearts to God and to our neighbour with honesty and humility? "God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

By turning to God, Photinia found that she had within her being a spring of living water – that she too was full of divine power and love, because God dwelt within her. She had opened the door through which He might manifest Himself and guide her towards the light of which her name spoke (Photinia - "full of light"). And He gave her a new way of living joyously in this light. May we also find this joyous truth.

Ihor George Kutash, Priest

THE SHADOWS OF LIFE

One of the joys of looking out from a high mountain, especially in the early morning or in the late evening, is watching the shadows as they move across the valley below, now creeping in dignity and then racing like playing children. Here in Pennsylvania we have many opportunities to watch these shadows from lookouts jutting out from our highways.

Not long ago I watched a portrait painter at work, and again I was impressed with the meaning of light and shadow. Much of his time was spent in getting the right mixture of the two, and he seemed to feel that the success of his painting depended greatly upon how the shadows fell. He told me that on days when the shadows were not right he would not paint.

Often in thinking about our own lives, or the life of our families, we wish that we might abolish the shadows that fall so often across our lives – shadows of illness and sorrow, shadows of disappointment and frustration, shadows of defeat and despair. We are even tempted at times to cry out against the plan of God which permits such shadows to darken our days.

Unfortunately, we fail to distinguish between those shadows which we have clearly created for ourselves, and those which have come from other sources.

But if we rise to a height of spiritual perspective, like the lookout on the mountain, the comprehensive view of life that comes frequently in moments of prayer, meditation or worship, we shall cease to protest against life's shadows. We shall find in them a unique value, we shall see how they help us appreciate the meaning of "light" – the laughing happy moments, the loyalty of friends, the joy of little children, the beauty of the world around us. We can then accept the plan of God and know with confidence that even in the shadows He is beside us.

STRIVE FOR THEM

We read extracts from the saints or Holy Fathers and we often see the word <u>virtue</u>. What does it mean and what is it? The dictionary describes virtue as the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice. In checking our catechism and prayer books, it was clear that there are three classifications of virtues.

A. THE DIVINE VIRTUES

1. Faith 2. Hope 3. Charity

B. THE CARDINAL VIRTUES

1. Prudence 2. Justice 3. Temperance 4. Fortitude

C. The CAPITAL VIRTUES and their opposite seven capital sins

1. Humility in opposition to Pride. It is accepting sinfulness and need for forgiveness.

2. Liberality instead of covetousness. It is our willingness to share our good fortune with others.

3. Chastity instead of lust. Taking the moral road in all things pertaining to sex.

4. Meekness instead of anger or mildness instead of anger. To have self-control over our emotions, and understanding about the weakness of others.

5. Temperance instead of gluttony. To practice self-control over what we eat and drink.

6. Contentment or happiness instead of envy. Being satisfied with one's possessions, status in life or situation and desiring the good fortune for others.

7. Diligence instead of laziness or sloth. Faithfully fulfilling our duties and promises to God, family and members of society.

LIGHTER MOMENT

John attended a show at an art gallery and was looking at the paintings. One was a huge black canvas with yellow blobs of paint splattered over it. Next to it was a painting which was a murky gray color with purple paint streaked across it. A man walked over to him and said: "I'm the artist. What do you think of my paintings?"

John, deciding to be honest, replied: "I don't understand them."

"I paint what I feel inside myself," the artist explained.

John responded: "Have you ever tried Alka-Seltzer?"

WINTER'S GRACE

Many metaphors are used in literature to describe life's brevity. It is a dream, a swift runner, a mist, a puff of smoke, a gesture in the air, a sentence written in the sand, a bird flying in one window of the house and out another.

In the prayers of the church we ask: how many days do we have? We are told that we are like grass and that our days are as short as the flowers in the field. We are advised to meditate on the brevity of our life. In another colorful verse, our lives are compared to smoke in a bottle and the dew of morning.

Another symbolic description was suggested by a friend who said that the short dash between the dates of birth and death on the tombstones represents the brief span of one's life.

When we were children, time loitered. But as we get closer to the end of our lives, time moves with increasing swiftness, like water swirling down a drain. In childhood we measured our age in small increments. "I'm 6 1/2," we would say for it seems to take so long to get older. Now we would never claim to be 60 1/2.

It's good to ponder the brevity of life. Life is too short to treat it carelessly. In Psalm 90, verse 12 after describing the shortness of life, Moses prayed: "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom."

To make the most of our earthly existence, we must lose ourselves in the will of God. This we can do even when time is running out. It's never too late to give ourselves totally to God (1 Peter 4:2). As we are told in Romans 6:11-14 to reckon yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus. Let not sin reign in your mortal body but yield yourselves unto God, and your members as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not have dominion over you.

NOURISHING THE SPIRIT IN US

Both public and private prayer are necessary in order that we may lead a truly Christ-like life and that the spirit should not become extinct in us. It is absolutely necessary for us to attend divine services in the church with faith, zeal and understanding, just as it is necessary to provide a lamp with fuel or power if it is to burn and not go out.

How shall we prepare ourselves when we go to divine services? We should be trustful as a child trusts his parents. In godly matters be simple, trusting, and undoubting as a child. Cast all your cares upon the Lord, and leave your sorrow behind. As we are instructed in Matt 10:19,20 "Take no thought how or what you shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour when you shall speak. For it is not you that speak, but the Spirit of your Father, which speaks in you."

Long ago, the Lord freed us from this care, having by His Spirit taught the Church what to say and how to pray at divine service.

St. John Kronstadt

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What Apostle told the early Christians that all believers were anointed by the Holy Spirit?
2. Who anointed the tabernacle with oil?
3. What person was, prior to his fall, anointed by God?
4. According to St. Paul, who is called to be the temple of God?
5. Who was told in a vision to measure the temple in Jerusalem?
6. Who carried away the furnishings from the Jerusalem temple and put them in the temple at Babylon?
7. What was Jesus talking about when He spoke of destroying the temple and raising it up in three days?

ANSWERS:

1. Paul (2 Corinthians 1:21)
2. Moses (Exodus 40:9)
3. Lucifer (Ezekiel 28:14) some translations have "the king of Tyre" not Lucifer
4. All believers (1 Corinthians 6:19)
5. John (Revelations 11:1-2)
6. Neubchadnezzar (2 Chronicles 36:7)
7. His Body (John 2:19-21)

Undique (from everywhere)

Today many people wishing for an excuse not to do what God asks of them, find fault with the teaching of the Holy Church and reject correct Christian belief. Instead, they choose to believe what they wish. This is like a man wishing to believe that he will not die, simply because the notion disturbs him. Not only will he fail to prepare for death, as one ought to, but he will inevitably find himself in the snare of death. Correct belief is not based on what we wish were true, but on truth itself. Do you practice buffet style Orthodoxy taking what you like and ignoring what you don't?

The "Shepherd of Hermas" written c.145 had this to say about something we are hearing so much about today. "By eating too much, some are bringing sickness upon their bodies and ruining them, while the bodies of others who have nothing to eat are ruined by the lack of food and their bodies are wasting away. High living is harmful to you who are well off and who do not share with the poor."

In The Ladder by John Climacus, which we read during Great Lent, he said: "Brethren, at the Eternal Judgment, we will not be condemned for not having worked miracles or for not having been theologians, but for not having wept over our sins."

Too many people coming to Orthodox churches sincerely believe that they have no sins, not just any "grave" sins – no sins at all. We are told in Romans 3:23: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" and in 1 John 5:19: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

St. John Chrysostom repeats that self-knowledge is the main path to humility and all other virtues. He proclaims: "Know Thyself. He that is fond of outward glory and highly esteemed things ... is not permitted to understand himself. He that ignores these things will easily know himself and having come to the knowledge of himself, he can go on to all the other parts of virtue."



Editor's Notes

Another year of publishing The Orthodox Herald has been completed. With this issue we start the 53rd year of publishing. I want to thank all of you for your help in making it possible. Your donations to the Funds have made it a lot easier to meet the bills and your kind comments have energized me. Spasebo, thank you.

I have always enjoyed making time for the "Herald" while keeping up with my other activities. These past few years, I have had to cut down on outside hobbies and activities, as more of the responsibilities have come my way. When a fall from the ladder left me with a shattered ankle and confined to the hospital for a month, I was worried about how I was going to maintain my service to my podvig. But the accident turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It provided me physical rest as well as spiritual enrichment. I spent the time in planning articles, in prayer and in reflection. It also gave me an opportunity to spend time with my relatives, friends and other dear ones – who visited me, called me, wrote to me, and prayed for and with me. With this I realized that God's perspective is not always the same as mine. I thank and praise the Lord for teaching me that what I see as a great problem can be a great opportunity spiritually and confirmed that God can bring something good out of something bad.

One morning I was surprised to see a single white tulip in my flower bed. I had planted tulips years ago, but none of them have come up for at least five years. I assumed that the animals had dug up the bulbs and eaten them. I enjoyed the sight of my pristine white tulip for many days. What an example of a gift from God and a sign of the resurrection. "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Matushka Nina Stroyen

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Such a beautiful name and such a beautiful custom! RADONITSA. The word is derived from radost or joy and is given to the tradition of visiting the graves of loved ones to share the joy and hope of the Resurrection with them. The Church has set the ninth day after Pascha, which comes on a Tuesday for this, but in America this can take place on any day until Pentecost. Here it is sometimes combined with the American Memorial Day.

Traditionally, a procession is made to the cemetery, complete with clergy, singers, parish members preceded by the banner carriers. Once at the cemetery, a service is held at the Cross for all people buried in the blessed grounds and then people request private prayers at the site of their family plots.

While waiting for the individual prayers at their grave, people visit and it was a common practice to have a picnic lunch at the gravesite. Anyone going by was invited to share food and memories about the departed ones. Tradition has it that this keeps alive the person's spirit in the hearts and minds of those left behind. "Vechnaya Pamyat" "Eternal memory." A blessed egg, cracked open, and bits of some of the other food are left on the grave to be shared with the birds and other small animals which may inhabit the cemetery. Truly a feast of life for all. One of the items often served are peroshki, little meat pies. I share a recipe using frozen bread dough.

PIROSHKI (MEAT PIES OR BUNS)

1 pkg. (3 lbs.) frozen bread dough
2 medium size onions, finely chopped
2 Tbls. butter
2 lbs. ground beef (chuck)
salt and pepper
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
2 Tbls. fresh dill, chopped
4 hard boiled eggs, chopped
2 Tbls. milk

Completely thaw frozen dough. While thawing, saute onion in butter until golden brown. Add ground beef and fry until brown, stirring to keep it crumbly. Season with salt, garlic salt and pepper. Remove from heat and mix in finely chopped eggs and dill or parsley. Set aside.

Cut one loaf of the thawed bread dough into 12 rounds of about 1/2 inch thick. Roll out on a lightly floured board, about 6 inches in diameter or as thin as possible. Place a heaping spoonful of meat filling on the dough, being careful not to put any on the edges, and bring the opposite sides together, pinch to close. Make a plump center with tapered ends. Place seam down on well-greased baking sheet.

Repeat with the five remaining rounds and the other two loaves. Brush top with milk or, better yet, light cream. Bake in 400° oven for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Makes three dozen.

These can be frozen but omit the egg whites as they get tough when frozen.

Meat filling is the most popular, but other fillings can be used.

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MEMORIAL DAY

For too many Americans, the original meaning of Memorial Day observed on May 31 this year, has drifted away with the barbecue smoke. Taking a three-day weekend on whatever date the last Monday of May falls, more and more families regard this important patriotic holiday as little more than a swinging gate to summer vacation. Off to the mountains, beaches or theme parks they go.

For those that don't remember, May 30 used to be the official date – Monday or not – to salute those who gave their lives in battle. Formerly known as "Decoration Day," because many people went to decorate graves with flowers, the holiday's definition has somehow broadened over time to honor the memories of civilians and soldiers alike.

Many places claim to be the spot where the day was first observed, among them then Waterloo, NY in 1866 and Boalsburg, PA in 1864. The place is not important but it did find in the hearts of 19th century Americans a feeling of an indescribable flood of emotions. That's what makes it so special. Lest we forget!

* * * * * *

Family traditions are crucial in developing a sense of who we are as people. Choose a holiday that is meaningful to your family and establish traditions that you will continue each year.

Home Bible Reading Schedule

MAY 2004

1. John 15:17-16:2	17. John 11:47-57
2. John 5:1-15	18. John 12:19-36
3. John 6:56-69	19. John 12:36-47
4. John 7:1-12	20. Luke 24:36-53
5. John 7:14-30	21. John 14:1-11
6. John 8:12-20	22. John 14:10-21
7. John 8:21-30	**23. John 17:1-13**
8. John 8:31-42	24. John 14:27-15:7
9. John 4:5-42	25. John 16:2-13
10. John 8:42-51	26. John 16:15-23
11. John 8:51-59	27. John 16:23-33
12. John 6:5-14	28. John 17:18-26
13. John 9:39-10:9	29. John 21:15-25
14. John 10:17-28	**30. John 7:37-52; 8:12**
15. John 10:27-38	31. Matt 18:10-20
16. John 9:1-38	

BIBLE STUDY

On May 5 we commemorate Mid-Pentecost. This day is midway between Pascha and Pentecost with three weeks on either side. Liturgically it unites and connects the two great days.

The Sunday following this day is dedicated to the Samaritan Women at Jacob's Well. Both days and their Gospel readings have water as their theme. The dismissal hymn of mid-Pentecost reflects this: "At the mid-point of the Feasts, O Saviour, quench my thirsty soul with the waters of piety. For to all You cried out: whoever thirsts, let him come to me and drink!..."

Water. It's essential to survival. That's why the woman came to the well in Samaria. (John 4:5-42) She came at noon, when few people were there. She was startled when a young Jewish man asked her for a drink. For Jesus broke huge barriers with His request – she was a woman, had been married many times, and wasn't a Jew.

Jesus offered her water, which was far better than she could have gotten from the well. He had "living water," which only He could give. She took that water and was spiritually cleansed, and she told everyone what she had experienced. "Come, see a man, who told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29)

Are you at the well? Is your soul thirsting for God? Do you need the cleansing and the refreshment He offers? He is waiting there to satisfy with "living water." "Quench my thirsty soul with the waters of piety."

LIGHTER MOMENT

Two young women were sitting at a table in a restaurant when one was telling her friend her idea of the perfect mate. "The man I marry must be a shining light among company. He must be musical, tell jokes, sing and stay at home nights."

A man sitting at a nearby table overheard and spoke up. "Pardon me, miss, I overheard you. What you really want is not a husband but a television set."